



HOPE Ministries Highlights

January 2017

Special points of interest:

- Joann talks about the brevity of life p. 1
- Announcement about Single Ladies' Retreat in OH p. 2
- Read a testimony of God's grace p. 3
- Ray Miller talks about forgiveness and the value it has in our lives p. 4

Mission Statement:

HOPE Ministries seeks to help individuals explore patterns that may have developed over their lifetime and provide opportunities to allow Jesus to bring healing and HOPE to their lives in fresh ways.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Today...Or Tomorrow? -by Joann Nisly



Nevin and Joann Nisly

I had just fallen asleep when my phone rang the night of Dec. 29, 2016. The news I received that night sent me into shock. My brother-in-law had passed away unexpectedly....just...so suddenly! My heart went out to the family who would undergo many changes and much sorrow. It sent my mind into a tailspin and the next week was spent in activities we had not anticipated. One of my first thoughts in thinking about Nelson was, "I wanted to go to the sale barn sometime where he auctioned." I've wanted to do that for several years, but we never got around to it for one reason or another. Now I will never get to go to one of Nelson's auctions again.

So often we live life with the concept of what we intend to do in the future. Sometimes this is in practical ways. "I'll take that person some cookies sometime" or "I'll clean that

room later." I also can live life this way in my relationships. For example, "I want to have coffee with that friend sometime" or "I should call that person and see how they are doing...later, when I have time." Sometimes this mindset affects me in personal or emotional ways. Such as, "I don't know why I keep getting so irritated with my husband. I need to work on this...sometime" or "I know that I need to incorporate more exercise into my daily routine, but I don't have time now."

People say this regarding getting enrichment or help for their own personal lives or their marriages. "I should pursue doing this 'Caring for the Heart' thing, but right now I'm too busy. Sometime later I'll do it when I have more time." It's not uncommon to hear it also when people talk about their relationship with God..."I'll do what I want to now, but later I'll give my life to Him" or "I'll think about what my destiny holds later."

What keeps us from doing things *now*? Why is it so much easier to wait until later? Is there fear in our hearts? "What will someone think if I...?" or "What if...?" Maybe we put it off because we really don't want to do it. Or, maybe we are just too busy, and hear ourselves saying, "Sometime, when I'm not so busy..." Psalm 90:12 (NLT) says, "Teach us to realize

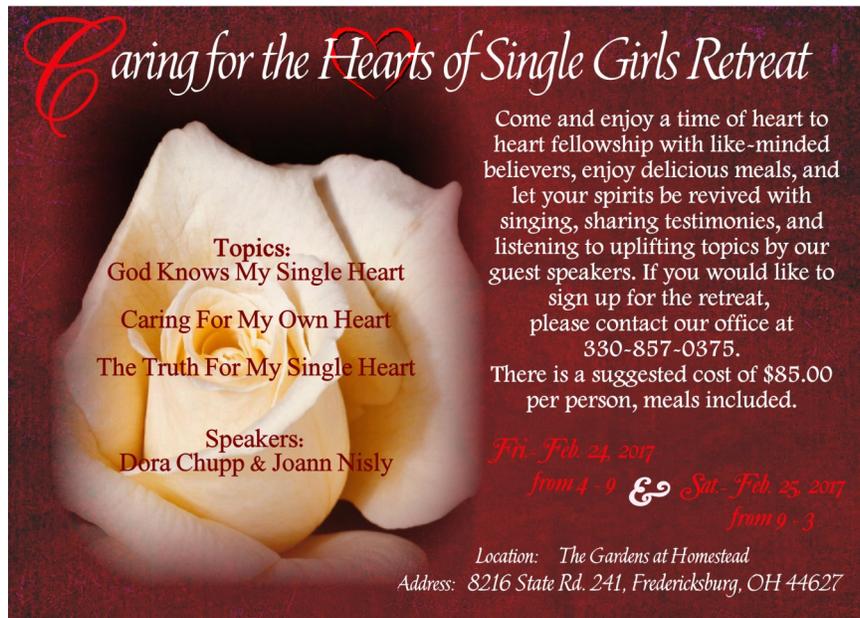
the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom."

We cannot act on all our ideas, but we can ask the Lord for wisdom for *today*. He calls us to things little by little and one by one. He knows our limitations; He knows our hearts; He knows our fears. What ideas is He whispering into our minds that He wants us to pursue *now*? What keeps us from pursuing those thoughts? He has an unending supply of strength and courage for us to open our hearts and receive from Him. He has power to enable us in the difficult things. He also has wisdom that He pours out to us liberally as we ask Him. This wisdom will show us what to do or what things to work on and when is the right time.

Here are some questions we can ask ourselves..."Is there someone He is calling me to encourage *today*?" "Is there a job He is enabling me to get done *today*?" "Is there a relationship that needs work *today*?" "Is there forgiveness to be offered *today*?" "Is there refreshment that He is inviting me into *today*?" "Does my personal life or marriage need enrichment or pursuing *today*?" Is my life in alignment with His *today*?"

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Coming Up...



Caring for the Hearts of Single Girls Retreat

Come and enjoy a time of heart to heart fellowship with like-minded believers, enjoy delicious meals, and let your spirits be revived with singing, sharing testimonies, and listening to uplifting topics by our guest speakers. If you would like to sign up for the retreat, please contact our office at 330-857-0375. There is a suggested cost of \$85.00 per person, meals included.

Topics:
 God Knows My Single Heart
 Caring For My Own Heart
 The Truth For My Single Heart

Speakers:
 Dora Chupp & Joann Nisly

*Fri. Feb. 24, 2017
 from 4 - 9 & Sat. Feb. 25, 2017
 from 9 - 3*

*Location: The Gardens at Homestead
 Address: 8216 State Rd. 241, Fredericksburg, OH 44627*

SINGLE GIRLS' RETREAT

Friday & Saturday,
 Feb. 24-25, 2017

Location:
 The Gardens at Homestead
 Fredericksburg, OH

For more information:
 Call 330-857-0375

or
 Print an invitation at
www.nislysHOPEministries.com

HOPE Ministries' Update

As a board, we are very grateful for the prayers and financial gifts that have made it possible for HOPE Ministries to minister in many ways, even beyond what we had thought possible. Many have gone out of their way in blessing this ministry and standing with us. Thanks so much for all you have done. Being able to offer the Hospitality Cottage to those who come for counseling has been such a blessing. HOPE Ministries has had the privilege of doing about 300 cases in walking with singles and couples in their journeys over the last 7 years of the ministry. We've also had opportunity to do premarital counseling. Our follow-up program allows continued mentorship and encouragement. Here are some updates as God continues to stretch us.

Last March, although we knew it could tax our finances, we gave Nevin and Joann the green light to be open to doing more traveling as opportunities come up. They have been able to be support counselors at seminars, as well as taking some speaking engagements. They've also been able to do some family counseling in mission settings. We have been concerned about our long waiting period for those who have applied for counseling and we are hoping that with possible changes in the future, this can be shortened. We are happy to announce that Julian Nisly is almost done with his training and will be joining the counseling staff, which will enable counseling locally to continue when Nevin and Joann are gone. At this point, we are running behind on finances, yet we trust that God will continue to expand our local staff and the financial needs that we have.

We wonder if you would consider joining us in asking God for vision, wisdom, and financial provision for the new year. We would also ask you to consider if God is asking you to partner with us financially as we walk this faith journey. The needs are great, but our God is greater! Thank you again for being faithful!

HOPE Ministries office hours

**Mondays and Fridays:
 9:00-1:00**

In the last 3 months HOPE Ministries has had:

- 4 new couple cases
- 7 new single cases
- 2 follow-up couple cases
- 3 follow-up single cases
- 1 Premarital case

There were also numerous preliminary sessions done with people.

**Helping
 Overcome with
 Purpose and
 Encouragement**

Testimony of God's work—anonymous

February 2015 I walked into HOPE Ministries with a deep desire to encounter God and have some of the hindrances taken away that seemed to keep me from knowing God's presence in my daily experience. I had definitely heard from Him in the past, but my days still were characterized by a lot of fear and anxiety, anger, and negative thoughts. I was not disappointed.

As Nevin & Joann asked questions, talked about what they were seeing in my husband & I, & led me in prayer, I emotionally connected with God whose care I was in, even before I was born. Jeremiah 1:5&8 became very precious to me: *"Before I formed you in the belly, I knew you: and before you came forth out of the womb, I sanctified you....Be not afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you, saith the Lord."* These verses were given to me in the cottage, as I spent time processing with the Lord.

This started a journey of bringing more hurts, lies, & strongholds to Jesus and receiving His truth and freedom. I began to understand that I was a beloved daughter of my Father, and that He delighted in me. He gave me very precious pictures of who He is to me and who I am to Him. In one picture, I

saw Him kneeling before me with a basin and a towel (like He did for the disciples), and my first reaction was: "You shall never wash my feet". I was surprised to see how I was like Peter, but even more surprised to understand the humility and child-likeness needed to enter into the kingdom, to be cleansed and held and delighted in by our Father!

An important concept that I learned is that I can choose to live in the love of my Father and His provisions for me, or to live as an orphan, living life on my own.

Another liberating fact to embrace was to see Jesus as the bleeding *"Lamb...which taketh away the sins of the world"*. The words of this song became very precious: "Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears; a bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears.

Before the throne my Surety stands...my name is written on His hands."

My husband & I spent various sessions with both Nevin & Jo-

ann and some with each of them separately. We also found it very helpful to utilize materials they recommended. It is thrilling to better understand and know Jesus who embraces us as we are. He gave us hearts that hold gifts for others, and He wants to use those gifts for His glory! It is a huge blessing to be

able to understand what Jesus put into each other's hearts as a couple, and to be able to remind each other to keep coming to Jesus as the children we are--and to also be able to be His flesh-and-blood care to each other.

The journey continues and growth keeps happening, even if we aren't in the counseling room, per se. It is a confirmation to have my children say, "Mom, you have changed--you give more grace to others than you used to." I continue to seek my Father's face and to delight in His company as He reveals Himself to me!



"I began to understand that I was a beloved daughter of my Father, and that He delighted in me."

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

Lam. 3:24-25

FROM A BOARD MEMBER:



Ray and Gina Miller
Braxton and Quinton

FORGIVENESS

In Matthew 6:14-15, Jesus says *“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”* These were the words of Jesus recorded immediately following the Lord’s Prayer, in which Jesus prayed to the Father, *“Forgive us our debts as we, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”* This passage makes the importance of forgiving others very clear, yet it often seems difficult for us to carry out. Let’s take a look at what forgiveness is and why it is so important.

What is forgiveness? Does it mean I

forget the hurts others have inflicted on me? “Forgive and forget” is a popular phrase that we have heard many times, but it is not necessarily an accurate description of what true forgiveness is. Forgiveness is simply releasing the person who offended us from being required to pay for their offense. While we may still remember that someone else hurt us, forgiveness is a choice we make that releases the other person from being required to pay for hurting us. The choice we make to forgive often ends up being a process rather than a one-time experience. We may have chosen to forgive a certain offense, then find ourselves welling up with anger or resentment again when we remember the offense later. Forgiveness then becomes a process of choosing to forgive again and releasing them from the responsibility to pay, as many times as it takes.

Another part of the process of forgiveness is learning to rely on Jesus to heal the hurts that others have caused us. Our sinful nature requires others to pay for their wrongs. We often buy into the lie that making them pay for what they did will make us feel better, when in reality, no payment another person could make would ever heal our hearts. Requiring someone else to pay for what they have done only fills our hearts with

resentment and bitterness. When we are able to release the other person from the obligation to pay for our hurts and rely on Jesus to fill that void, it also releases our own hearts to enjoy fellowship with Jesus and with other people.

If we take a minute to think about our sinfulness in light of a holy God, we must admit we have been forgiven a lot. While forgiveness can be a difficult process to work through, it is vital to the health of our own heart. As we learn to work through the process of forgiveness and healing, it can become an attitude we live with, rather than something we do occasionally. Living with an attitude of forgiveness means releasing others, but let’s remember, it also means we are releasing ourselves from bitterness and resentment. Without bitterness and resentment taking root in our lives, we are free to experience true heart relationships with God and others.

Ray is employed as a hydraulic technician at B&B Hydraulics. His wife, Gina, works at Partridge Grade School. They have 2 sons, Quinton & Braxton. Quinton is in grade 10 at Haven High School & Braxton is a fifth grader at Partridge Grade School this fall. Ray & Gina are members at Plainview Church & are currently directors of the church’s Wednesday evening children’s ministry, JAM. They are blessed to be a part of the Hope Ministries board & look forward to seeing how God continues to move through this ministry.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Our desire is that no one will be excluded from opportunity for sessions because of finances. All counseling is done on a donation basis, and this plus the gifts of God’s people, allow us to be full time in this ministry. We are grateful for all who have stood with us in so many ways and do trust in God’s continuing provision. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we are accountable to our board for the finances and the operation of HOPE Ministries. If you wish to know more details about our finances, please contact Julian Nisly, our treasurer, at 620-664-5304. As God leads you to think about HOPE Ministries, please pray for us, and if He prompts you to join in our financial support, donations can be made in several ways as stated below. Tax deductible receipts will automatically be issued for checks of \$50 or more.

Donations can be done in various ways:

Send to:
HOPE Ministries
Box 103
Partridge, KS 67566

Call 620-259-9390 to use Credit Card

Go to our website and use the donation button through Paypal.



HOPE Ministries Board Members:

Nevin & Joann Nisly—director
Lynn & Sandra Miller—Board Chairman
Julian & Bertha Nisly—Sec./Treasurer
Arlen & Gloria Mast—Vice Chairman
Ray & Gina Miller—Board Member
Gene Miller—Board Member